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JENKINS, WILSON & TAYLOR, P. A.
3100 TOWER BLVD
SUITE 1400
DURHAM, NC 27707

EXAMINER	
D AGOSTA, STEPHEN M	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2683	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/718,292	ALLISON, RICK L.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Stephen M. D'Agosta	2683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-5,11-22,24-27,29,31-43 and 49-57 is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) 6-10,23,28,30 and 44-48 is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 November 2003 is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/03.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 5, 12-14, 17-20, 24-27, 29, 35, 37-39, 43, 50-51 and 54-57 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fenton et al. US 6,161,012.

As per **claims 1, 20 and 39,** Fenton teaches a method for triggerless mobile group dialing (title and abstract), the method comprising;

at a signaling message routing node (figure 1 shows MSC and SCP):

(a) receiving and routing a plurality of call signaling messages (figure 1 is a cellular network that supports routing of phone calls/signals),

(b) intercepting, from the plurality of call signaling messages, a call signaling message for a call directed to a mobile dialing code used to identify a called mobile subscriber within a mobile dialing group

(c) determining a called party address based on the mobile dialing code,

(d) replacing the mobile dialing code in the message with the called party address, and

(e) routing the call signaling message to its intended destination (C6, L25-33 teaches "Also, instead of each private network having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or ***dialed stations*** accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed

code" which reads on "steps b to e" since the MSC intercepts/receives a call from a caller to a called party, the short code is identified for the called party and said code is replaced with the "longer" code and the call is routed to it's destination).

With further regard to claim 20, Fenton teaches the MSC/VLR/HLR receives and interprets the short codes (via some form of lookup table and/or database), which reads on a signaling message routing node. The examiner also notes that in AIN-enabled networks which are well known, other nodes such as SCP's/STP's receive and route call signals (Fenton's figure 1 shows an SCP and discloses support for an Intelligent network, C6, L39-44).

As per **claims 5 and 43,** teaches claim 1/39 wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a call signaling message including calling party dialed digits and wherein determining a called party address based on the mobile dialing code includes determining a called party address based on a mobile dialing group ID associated with the calling party dialed digits and the mobile dialing code (C6, L25-33 teaches "Also, instead of each private network having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or dialed stations accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed code" which reads on the claim since the HLR/VLR/MSC allows a user to define his own short codes which are associated with the calling party and the mobile dialing (short) code dialed. The examine notes that the calling signal message intercepted will include the calling party's dialed digits.

As per **claims 12 and 50,** Fenton teaches claim 1 wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a mobile call signaling message addressed to an HLR (figure 1 shows MSC/HLR which receives/routes all calls).

As per **claims 13, 38 and 57,** Fenton teaches claim 1/20/39 wherein determining a called party address a called party address includes determining without querying an intelligent network (IN) or CAMEL database external to the routing node (C6, L25-33 teaches "Also, instead of each private network having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or dialed stations accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed code", hence the MSC is performing the translation and no query is sent to an IN or CAMEL database, which reads on the claim.

As per **claim 14 and 51,** Fenton teaches claim 1/39 wherein determining a called party address includes determining an E.164 address for the mobile call signaling message.

"Also, instead of each private network having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or dialed stations accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed code" which reads on deterining an E.164 address since that is what the MSC does when it "appropriately produces the longer dialed code".

As per **claims 17-19 and 54-56,** Fenton teaches claim 1/39 comprising screening call signaling messages that do not have short codes and excluding these messages from short code processing as defined by steps (b)-(e) AND/OR wherein screening call signaling messages that do not have shod codes includes examining a numbering plan parameter in the mobile call signaling messages AND/OR wherein screening the call signaling messages that do not have short codes includes examining the length of the called party address in the call signaling messages teaches (C6, L25-33 teaches "Also, instead of each private network having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or dialed stations accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed code" which reads on examining any/all dialed phone numbers (ie. short or E.164) and examining them for proper routing.

As per **claim 24,** Fenton teaches claim 20 wherein the triggerless mobile dialing code translation function is adapted to determine a mobile dialing group ID associated with each of the intercepted signaling messages and to translate the mobile dialing code in each intercepted signaling message into a called party address using the mobile dialing code and the mobile dialing group ID (C6, L25-33 teaches "Also, instead of each private network having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or dialed stations accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed code" which reads on the claim since the calling party's signal will include it's phone number and a short code for the called party (which is translated).

As per **claim 25,** Fenton teaches 25 claim 20 wherein the triggerless mobile dialing code translation function is adapted to extract a calling party address from each of the intercepted signaling messages and to translate the mobile dialing code in each intercepted signaling message into a called party address using the mobile dialing code and the calling party address combination (C6, L25-33 teaches "Also, instead of each private network having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or dialed stations accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed code" which reads on the claim since the calling party's signal will include it's phone number and a short code for the called party (which is translated).

As per **claims 26-27,** Fenton teaches claim 25 wherein the mobile dialing group comprises a subscriber-specific dialing group corresponding to the calling party dialed digits AND wherein the mobile dialing group corresponds to a range of digits in which the calling party dialed digits fall (C6, L25-33 teaches "Also, instead of each private network.having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or dialed stations accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed code". The purpose of short codes is that they are used within a specific network and use specific dialing numbers/groups which fall into a range of digits for the called parties (eg. for example, any user within a certain exchange range will be able to dial a short code for any other user with that same exchange range).

As per **claim 29,** Fenton teaches claim 20 wherein the mobile dialing code database includes a first table for mapping calling party information to dialing group IDs and a second table for mapping mobile dialing codes and dialing group IDs to called party numbers. (C6, L25-33 teaches "Also, instead of each private network having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or dialed stations accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed code". Hence, the examiner broadly interprets the function of the MSC translating the short codes as using at least one lookup table to cross-correlate the calling party number and the called party number for call connection operations.

As per **claim 35,** Fenton teaches claim 20 wherein the communications module, the mobile dialing code translation function, and the mobile dialing code translation database are components of a signal transfer point (C6, L39-44 teaches using the system in an Intelligent network which inherently uses STP's/SCP's (figure 1 shows an SCP). Since intellingent networks offload processing from the MSC onto STP's/SCP's, one skilled would offload the short code processing onto SCP's/STP's for processing and routing).

As per **claim 37,** Fenton teaches claim 20 wherein the mobile dialing codes in the mobile dialing code translation database are customizable by end users (C6, L25-33 teaches "Also, instead of each private network having a common short code for all users, each user may have his own set of short codes, which are individually interpreted by the network (HLR/VLR/MSC) to provide access to predetermined dialed stations, such as a private network, or dialed stations accessible by longer dialed codes in which case the Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) appropriately produces the longer dialed code".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11, 16, 49 and 53 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fenton.

As per **claim 11 and 49,** Fenton teaches claim 1/39 **but is silent on** wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a call signaling message addressed to the STP.

The primary examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that an STP is used to route calls and is a component of an AIN-enabled phone network. Fenton teaches an Intelligent network (C6, L39-44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Fenton, such that intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a call signaling message addressed to the STP, to provide means for Fenton's invention to be modified and used within an intelligent network as he describes support for in his disclosure.

As per **claims 16 and 53,** Fenton teaches claim 1/39 **but is silent on** wherein routing the call signaling message to its intended destination includes message transfer part (MTP) routing the call signaling message to its intended destination.

The primary examiner takes Official Notice that MTP routing is well known in the art of telephone routing/switching (eg. SS7) and would be used by one skilled in the network disclosed by Fenton. Wikipedia defines MTP as:

"...The **Message Transfer Part** is part of the Signalling System 7 (SS7) which is used for communication in Public Switched Telephone Network.

The MTP is responsible for the correct and reliable end to end data transport of SS7 messages between communication partners. According to the OSI model the MTP Level two corresponds to OSI Layer 2 (data link layer) and the MTP Level 3 to the OSI Layer 3 (network

layer). The physical layer for the MTP transport normally uses a time slot in an E-carrier/T-carrier.

MTP Level two provides error detection, sequence checking and it initiates retransmission in case of erroneous reception of messages. The MTP Level2 uses packets called *signal units* to transmit SS7 messages. There are three types of signal units : Fill-in Signal Unit (FISU), Link Status Signal Unit (LSSU), Message Signal Unit (MSU).

MTP Level three provides routing functionality to transport signaling messages through the SS7 network to the requested endpoint. Each network element in the SS7 network has a unique address, the Signaling Point Code (SPC). Message routing is performed according to this address.

In the SS7 network a distinction is made between a Signaling Transfer Point (STP) which only performs MTP message routing functionalities and a Signaling End Point (SEP) which uses the MTP to communicate with other SEPs e.g. telecom switches..."
[Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Message_Transfer_Part"]

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Fenton, such that MTP routing is used, to provide means for using/supporting industry standard SS-7 signaling operations.

Claims 2-4 and 40-42 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fenton and further in view of Alonso et al. US 2002/0115441.

As per **claims 2-4 and 40-42,** Fenton teaches claim 1/39 **but is silent on** wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a send routing information message AND/OR wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a location request message AND/OR wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting an IAM message.

Alonso teaches that well known industry-standard systems support routing information messages, location request messages and IAM messages:

1. The "IAM" message (S-300) is received in the Gateway Mobile Switching Centre (N-201) (hereinafter referred to as GMSC) of a CDMA2000 or IS-41 based Public Land Mobile Network (N-200) (hereinafter referred to as PLMN). The calling subscriber number, generally known as A-number by the

telecommunications community, received in said IAM is kept at the GMSC (Para. 0033).

2. The GSM/UMTS GMSC (N-101) sends the GSM/UMTS MAP message "Send Routing Information" (S-120) to the GSM/UMTS HLR (N-102). (Para. 0069).

3. 2. The IS-41 GMSC (N-201) sends the IS-41 MAP message "Location Request" (S-220) to the IS-41 HLR (N-202). Said message carries the A-Number. (Para. 0075)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Fenton, such that intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a send routing information message AND/OR wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a location request message AND/OR wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting an IAM message, to provide means for supporting industry-standard messages within Fenton's system.

Claims 15 and 22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fenton and further in view of Levine US 6,076,121.

As per **claims 15 and 52,** Fenton teaches claim 1/39 **but is silent on** wherein routing the call signaling message to its intended destination includes performing global title translation using the called party address and routing the call signaling message based on the result of the global title translation.

Levine teaches "In telecommunications networks, the advent of local number portability (LNP), now mandated by the government telecommunications regulatory agencies of several nations to encourage local exchange carrier competition, requires the telephone network as a whole to establish a network path to the proper destination for a user, even when that user's telephone line is now on a "new" competitive local exchange

operator/administrator's CO switch, and is no longer served by the CO having the nominal area code and CO code of that user's pre-existing explicit DN. Various methods for effectively either forwarding such calls or re-originating such calls after performing a global title translation (telephone jargon for substitution of a distinct destination explicit DN derived from an appropriate translation data list) on the dialed digits have been espoused by various interests in the telephone industry. All of these proposed methods have the undesirable result of requiring multiple explicit DNs for each such subscriber, and thus greatly exacerbating the number exhaustion problem." (C7, L59 to C8 L22) which reads on performing a translation (from short code to E.164 number) and then using said E.164 number to route the call to the specified phone.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Fenton, such that routing the call signaling message to its intended destination includes performing global title translation using the called party address and routing the call signaling message based on the result of the global title translation, to provide means for using global title translation which substitutes a short code directory numbers with the actual phone number.

Claims 21-22, 31-34 and 36 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fenton and further in view of Schmersel et al. US 6,055,302.

As per **claims 21-22, 31 and 36,** Fenton teaches claim 20 **but is silent on** wherein the communications module is adapted to intercept predetermined SS7 call signaling messages sent over SS7 signaling links for triggerless mobile dialing code processing AND wherein the communications module is adapted to intercept predetermined SS7 call signaling messages sent over IP signaling links for triggerless mobile dialing code processing AND the communications module, the mobile dialing code translation function, and the mobile dialing code translation database are components of an SS7/IP gateway.

Fenton does disclose support for an Intelligent Network (C6, L39-44).

Schmersel teaches an intelligent network that supports short code/VPN dialing in an SS7/IP gateway environment (see figure 9) and;

1. A new signaling system called Signaling System No. 7 (SS7) was developed to allow high-speed communications between telephone exchanges before and during call setup. The SS7 protocol allowed for the first time, the fast database lookups needed for the implementation of toll-free calling. After the development of the SS7 technology, it became possible to exchange data across a telephone network virtually instantaneously. This was the genesis of the Intelligent Network. (C4, L41-49)

2. Subscribers in presently-envisaged IN implementations, may have access to a variety of customized services and features. For example, subscribers may be permitted to designate frequently called numbers using shorter dial codes, a feature often referred to as "short numbering", "speed dialing" or "abbreviated dialing" service. Current standards also permit subscribers to restrict outgoing calls to specific numbers or to ranges of specific numbers (such as area codes, country codes, 900 numbers, etc.), a feature referred to as "call barring". (C5, L12-21)

3. FIG. 9 shows the Networked IP (NIP) system of an embodiment of present invention. A Networked IP system comprises an SCP 901 that can communicate with a plurality of Intelligent Peripherals (IPs) 911-914. Each of these logical IPs are SRFs in IN terminology, as noted earlier. For illustrative simplicity, only four IPs are shown in FIG. 9: an IP handling incoming calls and non-call messages, IP.sub.i 911; an IP handling outgoing calls and non-call messages, IP.sub.o 913, an IP connected to an ISDN system 960, IP.sub.gis IS 912, and a gateway IP connected to a PLMN system 950 IP.sub.gm 914. (C13, L32-42)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Fenton, such that the communications module is adapted to intercept predetermined SS7 call signaling messages sent over SS7 signaling links for triggerless mobile dialing code processing AND wherein the communications module is adapted to intercept predetermined SS7 call signaling messages sent over IP signaling links for triggerless mobile dialing code processing, to provide means to

support SS7 over IP signaling links within an Intelligent Network environment as taught by Schmersel.

As per **claim 32,** Fenton teaches claim 31 wherein the gateway screening function is adapted to exclude messages from mobile dialing code translation processing in response to determining that the signaling messages do not include mobile dialing codes (C10, L11-12 teaches using a two digit code for short codes, hence all messages not using the two digit short code nomenclature will be excluded from this service).

As per **claim 33,** Fenton teaches claim 31 wherein the gateway screening function is adapted to exclude messages from mobile dialing code translation processing based on the length of a called party dialed digits parameter in each of the messages (C10, L11-12 teaches using a two digit code for short codes, hence all messages not using the two digit short code nomenclature will be excluded from this service).

As per **claim 34,** Fenton teaches claim 31 wherein the gateway screening function is adapted to exclude messages from mobile dialing code translation processing based on numbering plan parameter in each of the messages (C10, L11-12 teaches using a two digit code for short codes, hence all messages not using the two digit short code nomenclature will be excluded from this service).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-10, 23, 28, 30 and 44-48 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

For **claims 6 and 44:** The prior art does not teach "wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a call signaling message including calling party dialed digits and wherein determining a called party address based on the mobile

dialing code includes determining a called party address based on the combination of the calling party dialed digits and the mobile dialing code without using a mobile dialing group ID".

For **claims 7 and 45:** The prior art does not teach "wherein the mobile dialing group comprises a subscriber-specific dialing group corresponding to the calling party dialed digits".

For **claims 8 and 46:** The prior art does not teach "wherein the mobile dialing group corresponds to a range of digits in which the calling party dialed digits fall".

For **claims 9 and 47:** The prior art does not teach "wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a call signaling message that does not include calling party dialed digits and wherein determining a called party address includes forcing an originating switch to send an IAM message to a gateway mobile switching center, extracting calling party dialed digits from the IAM message, and wherein determining a called party address based on the mobile dialing group and the mobile dialing code includes determining the called party address based on a mobile dialing group ID associated with the calling party dialed digits and the mobile dialing code.

For **claims 10 and 48:** The prior art does not teach "wherein intercepting a call signaling message includes intercepting a call signaling message that does not include calling party dialed digits and wherein determining a called party address includes forcing an originating switch to send an IAM message to a gateway mobile switching center, extracting calling party dialed digits from the IAM message, and wherein determining a called party address based on the mobile dialing code includes determining the called party address based the combination of calling party dialed digits and the mobile dialing code without using a mobile dialing group ID.

For **claim 23:** The prior art does not teach "wherein the communications module is adapted to intercept predetermined IP telephony call signaling messages for triggerless mobile dialing code processing".

For **claim 28:** The prior art does not teach "wherein the triggerless mobile dialing code translation function is adapted to intercept first call signaling messages that include mobile dialing codes and that do not contain calling party addresses, to force originators of the first call signaling messages to send second call signaling messages that include mobile dialing codes and calling party addresses, and to translate the mobile dialing codes in the second call signaling messages into called party addresses using the calling party addresses and the mobile dialing codes".

For **claim 30:** The prior art does not teach "wherein the mobile dialing code translation database includes a third table for mapping mobile dialing codes to gateway mobile switching center (GMSC) identifiers".

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. McCann et al. US 6,647,113
2. Henry et al. US 6,718,018
3. Ouyang US 6,728,361
4. Gutierrez et al. US 5,481,603
5. Morrisey et al. US 5,418,844

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. D'Agosta whose telephone number is 571-272-7862. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am to 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Trost can be reached on 571-272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stephen D'Agosta
PRIMARY EXAMINER
4-29-2005